The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor concerning in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Our whole social life is in essence but a long, slow striving for the victory of justice over force.—John Galsworthy.

WHOLE NO. 1427 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 1938 | FRANK MORRISON, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 28, NO. 34

Printing Trades Unions Ask WPA to Allot $10,000,000 For New School Text Books

President Haggerty Tells Works Progress Administrator Hopkins That Reduction of Hundreds of Millions of Dollars Annually in School Expenditures During the Depression Despite Big Increase in Number of Students Makes Increased Supply of Books Absolutely Necessary; WPA Allotment Is Also Held Essential to Provide Job Opportunities for Thousands of Idle Workers in Printing Trades, in Which Five Unions During the Past Eight Years Have Paid Millions of Dollars of Benefits to Their Unemployed Members.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—John B. Haggerty, president of the International Allied Printing Trades Association, has requested the Works Progress Administration to allot ten million dollars to provide for the many thousands of schools in the United States whose expenditures for school purposes have decreased nearly $700,000,000 annually during the past eight years despite the fact that the number of students has increased many hundreds of thousands.

The International Allied Printing Trades Association is composed of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants Union, the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders, the International Typographical Union, the International Stereotypers and Electrotypers Union, and the International Photo-Engravers Union.

Citing John W. Studebaker, U. S. Commissioner of Education, as asserting that this wholesale reduction in the budget of American schools has created a great need for new text books, Mr. Haggerty emphasized the tremendous importance of the allotment in the education of boys and girls with adequate materials for their instruction.

In addition, Mr. Haggerty stressed the justice of the request that the WPA set apart the two-million-dollar allotment for printing trades unions to provide employment for many thousands of jobless in the printing trades. He pointed out that over a period of eight years the five national and international unions constituting the Allied Printing Trades Association have paid out nearly $97,000,000 in benefits to their unemployed members, and that the time has arrived when the Federal Government, through the WPA, should "make some contribution toward the unemployment relief of the organized printing trades workers."

In making the request, Mr. Haggerty, speaking for the Board of Governors of the International Allied Printing Trades Association, stressed the point that in order to create work for the unemployed in the printing industry trades the $10,000,000 must be expended exclusively for textbooks produced after the allotment is made.

TEXT OF HAGGERTY'S LETTER

Following is the text of Mr. Haggerty's letter to Mr. Hopkins:

Mr. Harry L. Hopkins, Administrator, Works Progress Administration, Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hopkins:

The International Allied Printing Trades Association, representing 165,000 organized printing trades workers realizing the widespread effects which the depression of the past eight years has had in the purchase of school text books of some 125,000 or more school districts of the United States, respectfully asks you, first, in the interest of the maintenance of the health of our citizens who handle such books; secondly, with a view of providing educational materials and equipment for the training of our children, and at this particular time more importantly as a need of new opportunities for many thousands of the organized printing trades workers who have been deprived of employment through the lack of purchase of such school text books as a result of the continuing depression, to allot ten million dollars of W. P. A. funds for the purchase of new text books to be allotted to school districts in need of new school text books.

School Budgets Slashed $663,000,000 Annually

We have checked the effect of this depression through the last eight years, a change on the part of over 125,000 school districts with Dr. Studebaker of the Office of Education, Department of the Interior. Dr. Studebaker assures us that there are thousands of school districts in dire need of new school text books. We understand that during the past eight years there has been an annual decrease of more than $663,000,000 expended for school purposes and educational enrollments in the schools have increased more than 750,000.

Senate Report No. 124, issued by the Committee on Education and Labor March 19, 1937, page 5, states:

"The depression has been more disastrous to the schools than to any other governmental service, and has widened the inequities that were there before its arrival. The poor communities and states have become poorer, and the closer they were to the margin of economic existence the more disastrous has been the shock.

"From 1929-34 expenditures for all governmental purposes in the entire Nation increased 35 percent. Federal expenditures increased 184.8 per cent. States expenditures decreased 5.8 percent, and local expenditures decreased 35.2 percent. During this same period expenditures for all public schools decreased 2.4 percent. The total decrease in educational expenditures from 1930 to 1934 was $663,000,000 annually.

"This decrease has occurred in spite of the fact that school enrollments have increased 3,000,000, that the number of students in our public high schools being now one-third greater than in 1929.

"The local unions affiliated with the International Allied Printing Trades Association have, each year, during the past eight years, contributed to the unemployed, through assessments on them employed, a vast sum of money.

"For the past eight years the contribution to the unemployed, coupled with the fact that our members have, in part, where we have been sharing work with those unemployed, computed to days of employment given to our unemployed, will exceed a million days.

"Local unions have restricted their membership in many instances to employment of not over four days per week and thousands work only half time or less. This would bring the aggregate contribution to the organized allied printing trades workers for relief to the unemployed, in terms of money, to over one hundred million dollars.

Five Unions Have Paid $96,988,000 In Benefits to Unemployed Members

"The International Typographical Union, for the four years ending June 30, 1937, contributed a sum in excess of $34,000,000 for relief of its unemployed members through the fact that situation holders, beginning with 1929, were required to employ a substitute on day each week. In addition to this very large contribution, local unions of the International Typographical Union paid in direct cash unemployment benefits totaling $5,220,014.17 between June 1, 1930, and June 30, 1937.

"We have figures of total benefits paid (including unemployment benefits) by the five international printing trades unions establishing the widespread effects which the depression of the past eight years has had in the purchase of school text books of some 125,000 or more school districts of the United States, respectfully you, first, in the interest of the maintenance of the health of our citizens who handle such books; secondly, with a view of providing educational materials and equipment for the training of our children, and at this particular time more importantly as a need of new opportunities for many thousands of the organized printing trades workers who have been deprived of employment through the lack of purchase of such school text books as a result of the continuing depression, to allot ten million dollars of W. P. A. funds for the purchase of new text books to be allotted to school districts in need of new school text books.

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PHOTO-ENGRAVERS UNION PAYS MILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY TO IDLE MEMBERS

Toronto, Canada (A. F. L. W. N. S.)—The significance of which is recognized when considering that photo engraving is a small industry, and that although more than 50 per cent of the membership is composed of not ten thousand members.

In addition to unemployment benefits the union carries on a considerable number of other welfare activities, including sickness and death benefits.

Reports of the officers indicated that approximately 35 per cent of the members are at present employed on a 35-hour week standard, 45 per cent on a 40-hour week, and the balance on a 45-hour basis. Approximately 90 per cent have secured a five-day week.

A.F.L. Challenges Labor Board Order

Claims Authority Was Exceeded in Pacific Coast Longshoremen's Case; Board's Decision Will Be Appealed to U. S. Court Unless Reversed.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, and Joseph Ryan, president of the International Longshoremen's Union, have directed Joseph A. Padway, counsel for the Federation, to institute proceedings before the National Labor Relations Board and the proceedings before the United States Circuit Court of Appeals to have the decree reviewed and reversed.

Board's Power Questioned

"The American Federation of Labor," the statement said, "is greatly disturbed over the extraordinary powers assumed by the Board in constituting a large geographical area, beyond the boundaries of the State of California, embracing thousands of workers of numerous employers and affiliated with different unions, as a single unit for the purposes of collective bargaining.

"The American Federation of Labor takes the position that this is an unwarranted assumption of power, contrary to the National Labor Relations Act, which would in many instances tend to deny to A. F. of L. employees who are in the majority in a craft, local or local union, the right to select A. F. of L. unions as their bargaining agency.

"In the decree of the Board the effect in this case of disestablishing the C. I. O. unions which the A. F. of L. members the right to bargain through their unions, although in a majority.

Padway Outlines Legal Situation

"The A. F. of L. statement included the following analysis of the legal way of the appeal filed by him, outlining the legal situation:

"If the precedent established by the Board in this case is to remain the law, and must similarly apply with the industry, the automobile industry, the lumber industry, the clothing industry, the shipbuilding industry. Groups of employers and employees in a large geographical area will be designated as a single unit, thus denying the right of self-organization and free choice of representatives by majorities in single plants and businesses.

"It is no justification for the Board to impose such a unit upon employees and employers that the unions affiliated with the A. F. of L. have been successful in organizing along similar lines in the past.

"The situation is quite different when employers and employees have their own unions by agreement among themselves have established a basis for the process of collective bargaining. It is quite another thing for the Board to step in and say that the A. F. of L., as for instance, the Metal Trades, to join in one vessel and the C. I. O. to join in another of employers as one group respecting all employees as another group.

"It will be found, however, that the agreements so to be made would be voluntary on the part of the employers and the employees and that unless, and no organization and no individual employer is compelled to join in with the others.

"Likewise when a number of employers agree with a number of unions agree to bargain as one, every union maintains its autonomy and existence. No amalgamation of the two is to be inferred into which results in denying to the single craft or local union the right on behalf of the majority and no union disestablished by the joint agreement.

Decision Held Unlawful

"In this statement of the Board the decree is compulsory as to all employers in the group and binding on all employees in the unit, however small though they have an overwhelming desire to be represented by the majority as members in the union. For instance, if the Newspaper Guild of New York or Tacoma are members of the A. F. of L. By the decree of the Board they are compelled to be represented for by the CIO.

"The mere statement of the principle proves its injustice and there is no doubt as to its unlawfulness. Therefore, we particularly call to the attention that the adoption of such funds it be specified that such money shall be spent only for new books made from entirely new plates and bindings produced after the allotment of the funds hereby requested are. We particularly stress the need, if job opportunities are to be provided, that the regulations shall specify that none of the money be spent for the purchase of books which are, in whole or in part, now available.

We respectfully request your early and favorable consideration of this request, and will gladly arrange a personal interview to explain in detail the appeal herein made.

Respectfully yours,

JOHN B. HAGGERTY,
President.

C. I. O. IS UNDER COMMUNIST DOMINATION, FREY DECLARES

President of A. F. of L. Metal Trades Department Gives House Committee Names of Several Hundred Alleged Communists or Communist Sympathizers Who Are Either Employed by the Committee for Industrial Organization or Are Leaders of C. I. O. Affiliates.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—John P. Frey, president of the Metal Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, in three days testimony before the Special House Committee Investigating Un-American Activities in the United States, presented abundant proof of the influence wielded by the Communists in the Committee for Industrial Organization, the chairman of which is John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America, a C. I. O. affiliate.

Starting off with the statement that the Communists held many important positions in the Committee for Industrial Organization, Mr. Frey, in the first installment of his testimony listed 284 alleged Communist party members who were or are on the C. I. O. payroll and named 20 others as C. I. O. leaders who, he claimed, were either members of the Communist party or were supporting Communist propaganda in the C. I. O. Later he submitted 230 more names, bringing his list of Communist party members who were active C. I. O. workers to about 500.

C. I. O. Endorsed by Communists

Charging that the program of the Committee for Industrial Organization had the "hearty endorsement of the Communist party," and that violence in connection with strikes in the automobile and steel industries was encouraged by Communist leaders, Mr. Frey declared that the advocacy of the sit-down strike and mass picketing had been used by the Communists as front line trenches in which to train members for the day when the signal for revolution is given.

He stressed the point that attempts of the Communists to dominate workers in the organized labor movement in the United States were wholly unsuccessful until John L. Lewis, embracing thousands of workers of numerous employers and affiliated with different unions, as a single unit for the purposes of collective bargaining.

"The American Federation of Labor takes the position that this is an unwarranted assumption of power, contrary to the National Labor Relations Act, which would in many instances tend to deny to A. F. of L. employees who are in the majority in a craft, local or local union, the right to select A. F. of L. unions as their bargaining agency.

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President.

PITTSBURGH WINS LABOR DAY TALK BY MORRISON

Address Will Be Broadcast Over NBC Blue Network

Washington, D. C. (AFLWNS)—Frank Morrison, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labor, will deliver his Labor Day address at Pittsburgh, Pa., on Monday, September 5, at a celebration sponsored by the Pittsburgh Central Labor Union. The address will be delivered at South Park at 3:00 P. M., Eastern Daylight Saving Time, and will be broadcast over the Blue Network of the National Broadcasting Company.

The South Park event will be preceded by a grand parade of Pittsburgh trade unionists starting at 10:00 A. M.

A large number of A. F. of L. unions from surrounding towns will participate in the Pittsburgh celebration.

CONTEST FOR FIRST "UNION LABEL BABY" EXCITES ORGANIZED LABOR IN SAN DIEGO

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

San Diego, Calif. (A. F. L. W. N. S.)—The fight is on! Vying for the honor of the first "union label baby" in San Diego, California, members of organized labor in that city are busy over varying procedures as being the parents of the first baby entering the "union label baby" contest, Mrs. Evelyn Vaughn, a member of Practical Nurses' Union, Local 21548, according to the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor. Competition was keen between the department said, when the Nurses' Union announced a prize for the first baby born under "union conditions."

Delegates from the Practical Nurses' Union told the San Diego County Federated Trades and Labor Council that the first baby to see the light of day with the help of a union nurse would also be given a "union" certificate in memoration of the event."

The parents will be given the prize, Nurses' delegates said.

This immediately threw the Council into an uproar, as men and women delegates quibbled over their respective rights to the prize.

"It's class legislation," said Big Joe Burgin, general baggageman, "I'm ever married!"

"That's all right," delegates parried, "there are plenty of married men that can do much about it."

Persons in need of practical nursing were asked to telephone Main 871. Always competent, skilled, union nurses are always on hand.

SEARS ROEBUCK OFFICIAL HEADS TEXTILE PAY UNIT

Washington, D. C. (AFLWNS)—Elmer F. Andrews, former industrial commissioner of New York state, was sworn in on August 15 as administrator of the new Wages and Hours law at the Department of Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins' office, it was announced by officials of the department.

Mr. Andrews said that he planned the immediate appointment of an industry committee to recommend a hourly wage for the cotton garment and tobacco industries. He added that no more than three industries would have committees functioning simultaneously during the first year.

The Administrator's first organization move, he said, would be the appointment of a deputy administrator and two assistant administrators. He violated a staff of about 1,000 persons, to be located here and in the field, many of whom, he said, must be taken from Civil Service rolls. He estimated that ultimately the law would affect 4,000,000 workers.

Mr. Andrews was sworn in by Chief Clerk Samuel J. Gompers of the Labor Department, and by Miss Perkins, vice president of the American Federation of Labor. At the conclusion of the ceremony Mr. Andrews embraced Mr. Andrews on the back and said:

"Now, Sam, the Lord have mercy on your soul!"

Miss Perkins commented that the Administrator was the first Labor Department official ever to get a "loving."

ANDREWS IS SWORN IN ON WAGE AND HOUR JOB

Administrator of Fair Labor Standards Act Visions Staff of 1,000; Will Start With Industry Committees on Textiles, Cotton Garment and Tobacco.

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for the public, the employers, and the employes. The chairman of the committee is one of the three representatives of the public.

58th Annual A. F. of L. Convention Will Meet in Houston on October 3

Executive Council Says Delegates Will Proclaim Again the Fundamental Principles of the American Federation of Labor for the More Perfect Development of "Fraternity, Brotherhood and Co-operation."

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor issued a notification that the Fifty-eighth Annual Convention of the Federation will convene in the Exposition and Convention Hall, Houston, Texas, at 10:00 o'clock, Monday morning, October 3, 1938, and continue in session from day to day until the business of the convention shall have been completed.

Importance of Convention Stressed

"In many respects the Fifty-eighth Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor which will convene at Houston, Texas, on October 3rd will be the most important ever held," the Executive Council said.

"A re-examination of the basis upon which our great movement is founded will be made and an analysis of the political and economic philosophy which our great movement has espoused and established will take place.

"We will determine from the experience through which we have passed during the past year how indestructible and round is the basis upon which our organization and structure rests.

"The records show that our great movement has faced every test and met every difficulty in a most successful and satisfactory way which it has been called upon to face during the past year.

"Harmony exists within the ranks of the American Federation of Labor. Differences, discord, bitterness and hate prevail within the ranks of the secession movement called the Committee for Industrial Organization.

"We will solidify our movement, unite our forces and develop fraternity, brotherhood and co-operation in the highest degree at this great historic Fifty-eighth Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor.

"It is of the greatest importance that all organizations affiliated with the American Federation of Labor be represented at this Convention.

Election of Delegates

Delegates must be elected at least two weeks prior to the Convention, and their names forwarded to the Secretary-Treasurer of the American Federation of Labor immediately after their election.

"Delegates are not entitled to seats in the Convention unless the tax and assessments of their organization have been paid in full to August 31, 1938.

"The importance of our movement, the duty of the hour and for the future, demand that every organization entitled to representation shall send its full quota of delegates to the Houston Convention, October 3, 1938.

Credentials

"Credentials in duplicate are forwarded to all affiliated unions. The original credential should be given to the delegate-elect and the duplicate forwarded to the American Federation of Labor Office, A. F. of L. Building, Washington, D. C.

"The Committee on Credentials will meet at the headquarters of the American Federation of Labor six days previous to the opening of the Convention, and will report promptly upon the opening thereof at Houston, hence secretaries will observe the necessity of mailing the duplicate credentials of their respective delegates at the earliest possible moment to Washington, D. C."

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TEXTILE UNIONS FORMED BY A. F. OF L.

Green Says Large Increase in Unions of Textile Workers in the American Federation of Labor Requires a Medium For Joint Action Which the New Group Will Provide.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—William Green, president of the A. F. of L., announced the establishment of a National Council of Textile Unions in the American Federation of Labor. He appointed Francis P. Fenton, New England representative of the Federation, to head the New England Division of the Council, and Scottie Bowden, representative of the A. F. of L., to head the Southern Division of the Council. Mr. Green will act as chairman of the Council.

"The recent rapid growth of the textile workers' unions within the ranks of the American Federation of Labor has made necessary the formation of a National Council representative of the workers in this industry.

"The purpose of the National Council is to consolidate the outstanding gains made by the American Federation of Labor in the organization of textile workers and to launch a new nationwide organizing drive among the workers in the textile industry.

"The Council will unify and strengthen the efforts of individual local unions affiliated with the Federation, will serve the unions as a medium for information, and will offer a basis for joint action and representation in furthering the common interests of the textile workers on a nationwide scale.

"The record of union contracts recently negotiated by the American Federation of Labor in the textile industry have demonstrated the effectiveness of trade unions in securing better wages and better working conditions for the textile workers. The National Council, patterned after the councils established by the Federation in a number of other industries, will make possible even more rapid progress in the gains shown in the past.

"The New England Division of the National Council, to be headed by Francis P. Fenton, will have its headquarters in Boston, Massachusetts. The Southern Division of the Council, headed by Scottie Bowden, will maintain its offices in Atlanta, Georgia."

ROBERT WATT RETURNS FROM EUROPE LOADED WITH FACTS ABOUT LABOR

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Robert J. Watt, Director of Social Security, American Federation of Labor, returned to the United States from a four month's sojourn in Europe equipped with a vast fund of reliable information regarding labor conditions and labor's relationship to American working men and women.

Mr. Watt, who is one of the eight members of the Workers' Group of the governing Body of the International Labor Organization, left Washington on April 14 to attend the 82nd session of the Governing Body which was held in Geneva the week of April 25. He also attended the recent International Labor Conference at Geneva as the Labor Delegate from the United States.

In accordance with a decision of the Governing Body taken at its Eighty-first Session, he attended as a delegate representing the Governing Body the Preparatory Technical Meeting on the Coal Mining Industry held in Geneva from May 2 to May 10.

During the interval between the Preparatory Coal Conference and the International Labor Conference he spent several weeks in Czechoslovakia as the guest of Dr. Czechoslovakian labor movement.

While in Geneva Mr. Watt was appointed by President Roosevelt as the alternate member of the commission which surveyed labor relations and the administration of labor legislation in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

On returning to his office in the American Federation of Labor Building he compiled a complete report on his activities and forwarded it to William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor and to the A. F. of L. Executive Council for use in preparing the report to the forthcoming annual convention of the Federation in Houston, Texas.

AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CONVENES ON AUGUST 22

Atlantic City Meeting Will Survey Trade Union Progress and Prepare Council's Report for 1938 Convention of the American Federation of Labor Scheduled to Open in Houston on October 3.

Washington, D. C. (AFLWNS)—The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor will convene Monday, August 22, in the Ambassador Hotel, Atlantic City, New Jersey, Frank Morrison, secretary-treasurer of the A. F. of L., announced.

Several other important matters scheduled for consideration the Executive Council will survey the progress of organization made during the past year. The Council will also finalize its annual report to the fifty-eighth convention of the American Federation of Labor, which opens at the Exposition and Convention Hall in Houston, Texas, on October 3.

The Executive Council consists of the President of the Federation, fifteen Vice Presidents, and the Secretary-Treasurer. The members are elected for one year by the delegates to the annual convention of the Federation, their terms beginning on January 1 following the convention.

PROVIDENCE GETS LABOR DAY ADDRESS BY GREEN

Speech of A. F. of L. President Will Be Broadcast Over NBC Blue Network.

Washington, D. C. (AFLWNS)—William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, will mark the Labor Day celebration in Providence, September 5, with an address delivered at Roger Williams Park from a platform erected by the Providence Central Federated Union. The address will be made at Roger Williams Park from 4:00 to 4:30 P. M., Eastern Daylight Savings Time, and will be broadcast over the NBC Blue Network.

The Providence Labor Day celebration will begin with a large labor parade led by Mr. Green. A number of central labor unions from various New England towns have planned to join with Providence in making the celebration a big success.